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ILLUSTRATED

**ALSO INSIDE**  
WADE TAYLOR  
FOOTBALL PORTAL CLASS  
AND MORE...

GET READY FOR  
"BUCKY BALL"

BUCKY MCMILLAN NAMED NEW MEN'S BASKETBALL COACH



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ROB HAVENS '88

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BY ROB HAVENS '88

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Top scorer in program history wraps up his college career.

BY ROB HAVENS '88

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**ON THE COVER:** President Mark Welsh III and Athletic Director Trev Alberts present new men’s basketball coach Bucky McMillan with his own 12th Man jersey at his introductory press conference.



# Howdy Ags!

Our spring sports are all rocking and it's been a lot of fun to cover! Congratulations to our men's Track & Field Team for winning their first indoor SEC Championship in program history! Our softball team reached the No.1 spot in the country after sweeping No. 5 LSU in College Station. Our men's and women's golf teams dominated their home course tournaments in preparation for the post-season, and our women's tennis team had a very exciting match against Georgia that clinched their fourth SEC regular season championship in a row. We look forward to watching these teams battle for postseason championships.

After a tough start, our baseball team shocked the nation by taking two out of three games against the defending national champion Volunteers in Knoxville. They followed that up with a sweep over South Carolina that featured late-game heroics that will be remembered for years to come!

Arguably our biggest news comes from men's basketball, where Bucky McMillan was hired to replace Buzz Williams. Please enjoy the story inside on the new ball coach. We are excited to watch some "Bucky Ball"!

We also said goodbye to Wade Taylor, who wrapped up his collegiate playing career. Enjoy some of our last shots inside.

Football wrapped up spring camp, and inside this issue you can check out the thirteen players Coach Elko added from the portal. The guys are grinding and putting in the hard work to prepare for the fall.

Thanks to all of our readers and corporate sponsors for making the magazine possible!

Gig'em!

*Rob '88*



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## PUBLISHER/EDITOR

Rob Havens '88  
rob@aggiemag.com | 979.229.8046

## CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Sarah Pyatt '14

## COPY EDITORS

Chelsea O'Neal Sweat '17  
Cory Richardson '25

## GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Sarah Pyatt '14

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## ALL-STAR ASSIST

Wade Taylor earned West Team MVP honors at the NABC College All-Star Game at The Final Four! Taylor filled up the stat sheet in only 23 minutes of play, scoring 14 points with six assists and four rebounds. Texas A&M's all-time leading scorer played his last collegiate game on the Final Four court in San Antonio.

Photo by Rob Havens '88







## DRIVING SUCCESS

Sophomore Sky Sudberry tees off on the second day of the “Mo” Morial Invitational held at the Traditions Golf Course in Bryan. The No. 20 Texas A&M women’s golf team won the tournament by a historic 38 strokes. Sudberry climbed 22 spots on the final day to finish 12th after firing a 2-under round. Photo by Rob Havens ’88









## HISTORIC WIN

Andersson Garcia trains himself directly as attacks the rim in the Aggies' upset win over No. 1 Auburn to wrap up the regular season. It was the first time in program history for the men's team to beat the number one team in the land. The Tigers would advance on the way to the Final Four. Photo by Rob Havens '88









## SEC CHAMPS

Texas A&M's Men's Track & Field team celebrates while lifting the trophy as the streamers descend on the 2025 SEC Indoor Champions. The Aggies snapped Arkansas's five-year winning streak, claiming the program's first ever indoor SEC title. Photo by Russell James





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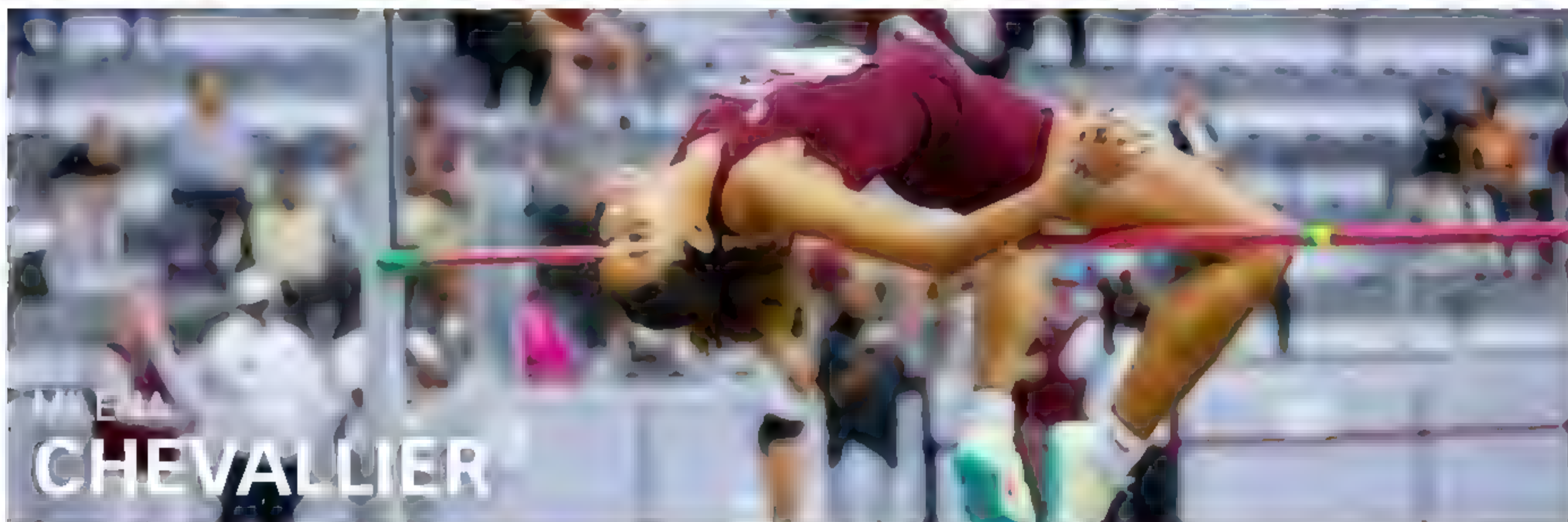
COACH  
**HENRY**



CAROLYN  
**DICKSON**



JADE  
**JOHNSON**



MIKAELA  
**CHEVALLIER**

## TRACK & FIELD

The Texas A&M men's track & field team won the program's first SEC Indoor Championship title, earning nine medals. The Aggies collected five gold, three silver, and one bronze as they scored 107.5 points to clinch the title. The 4X400m quartet of Auhmad Robinson, Cuitler Zamzow, Antonie Nortje and Kimar Farquharson won the final event to secure the championship. The women's team wrapped up their championship in fifth place, earning a gold, silver and bronze medal on the final day.



AUHMAD  
**ROBINSON**



ADABIE



VICTORIA  
**KADIRI**

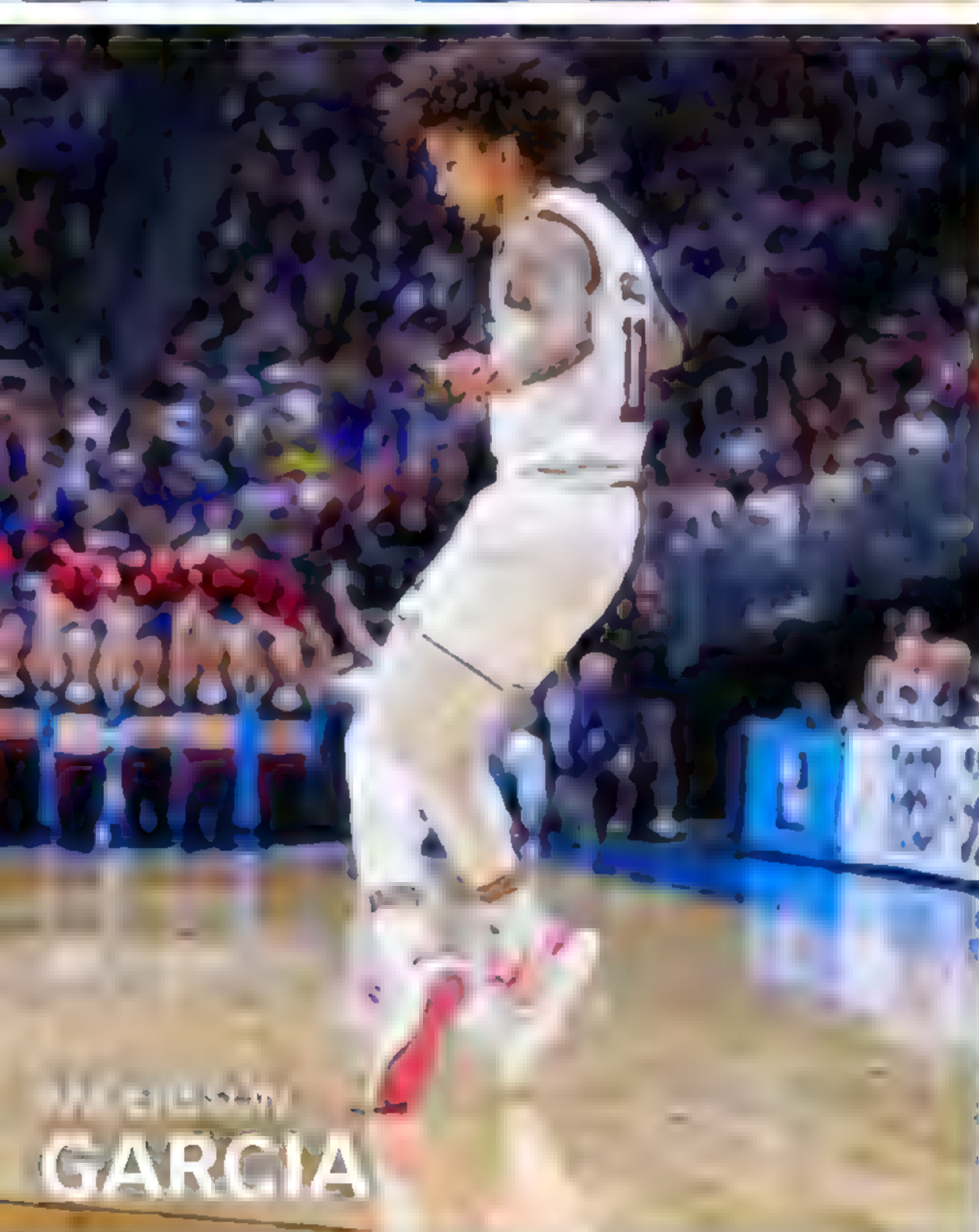




WADE  
TAYLOR IV



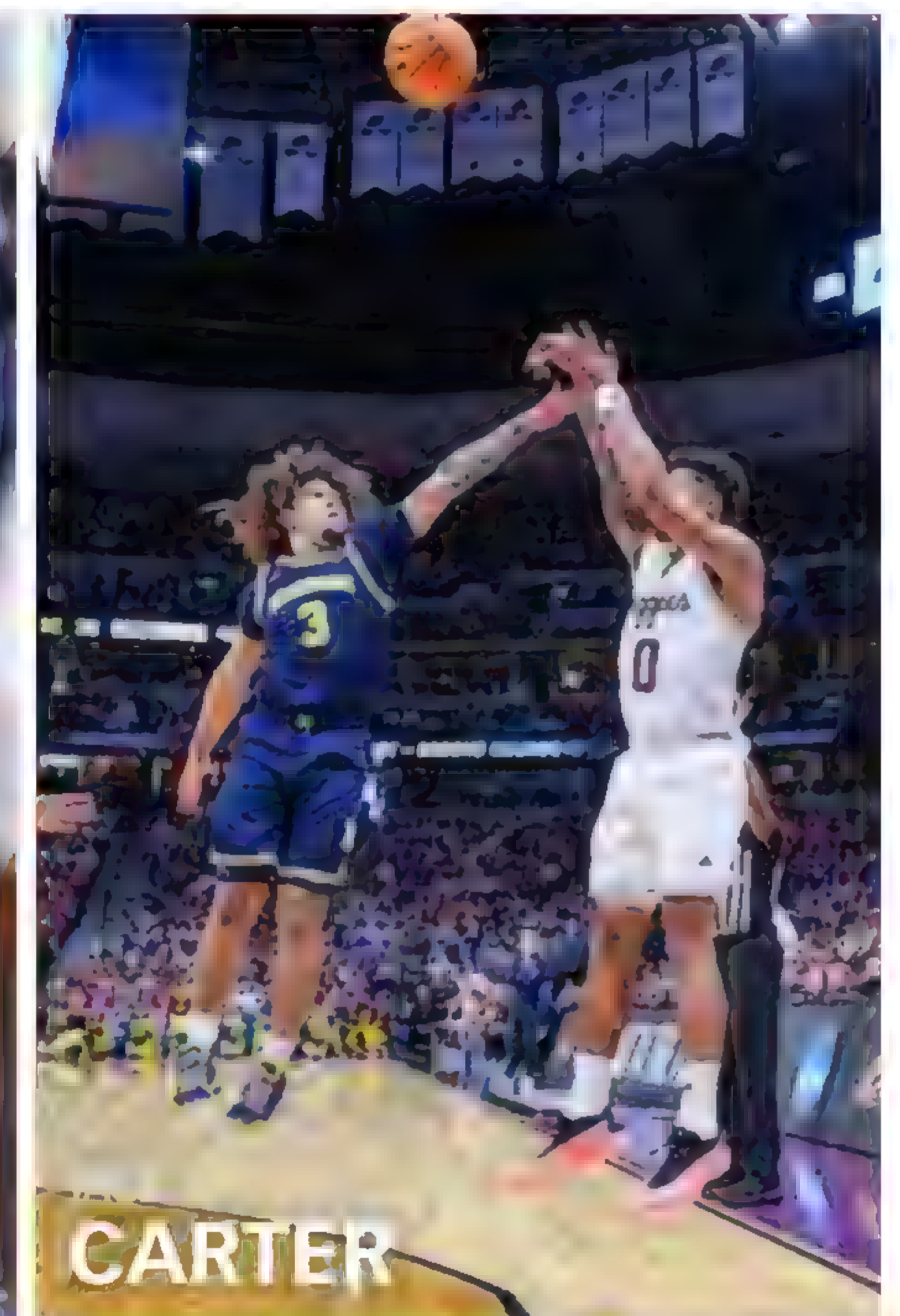
PHIL HARPER  
PAYNE



WILLIAM  
GARCIA



ZACH  
PHELPS



CARTER

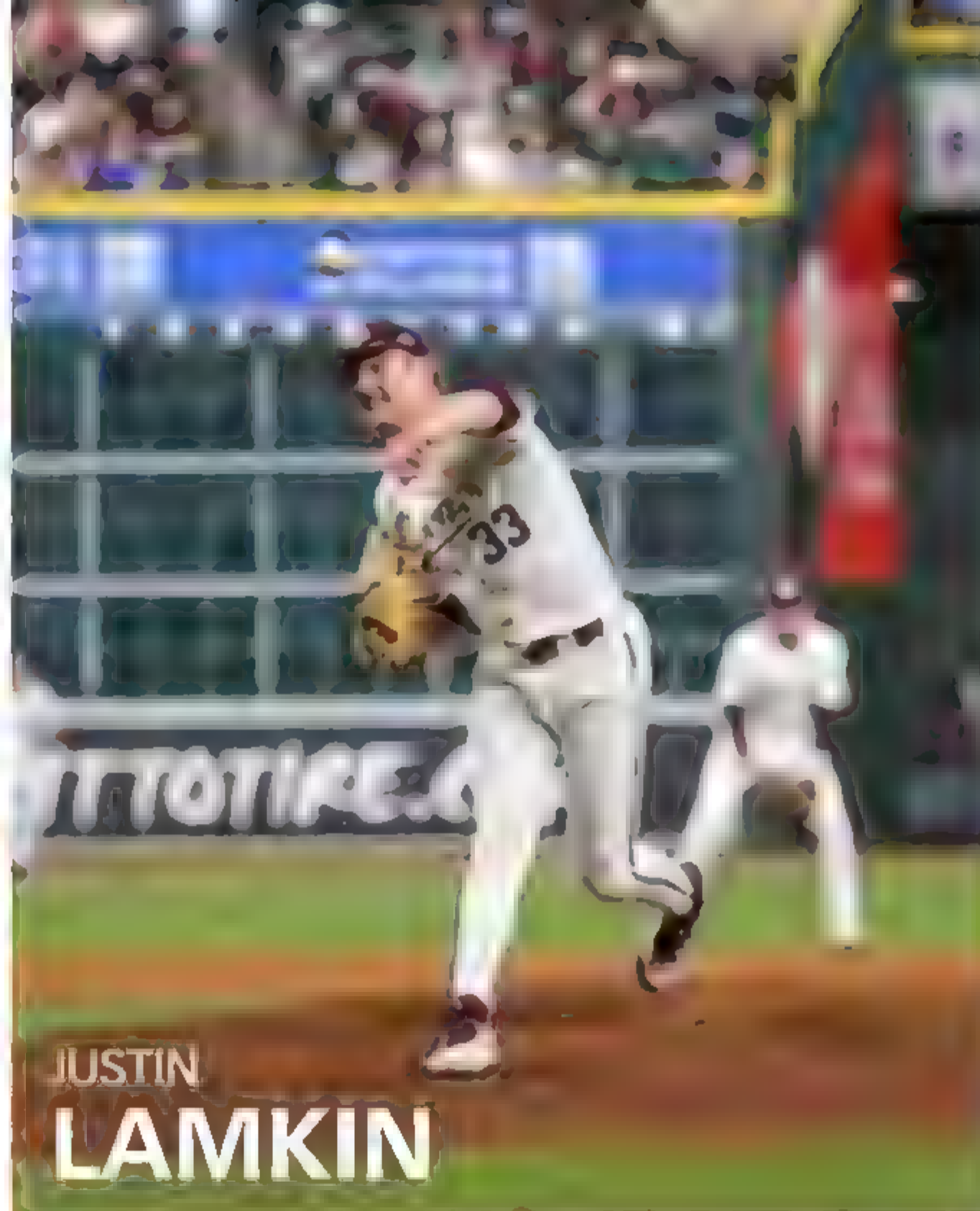
## MEN'S BASKETBALL

The Aggies earned a four seed by the selection committee and matched up against thirteenth seed Yale in the first round of the NCAA Tournament in Denver, Colorado. Although the Aggies were selected by many experts to get upset, they powered their way to a wire-to-wire victory over the Bulldogs 80-71. In the second round, the Aggies took on a couple of seven-footers down low, but were still able to build a ten-point lead in the second half. Unfortunately, the Wolverines chipped away, and an Aggie cold spell caused their demise as Michigan won 91-79, ending the collegiate careers of eight Aggies.





ALLIE  
**ENRIGHT**



JUSTIN  
**LAMKIN**

## SOFTBALL

Trisha Ford's team capped off an amazing season with an SEC Tournament Championship and the overall No. 1 Seed in the NCAA Tournament. All eyes are on softball as they compete for a national championship.

## BASEBALL

After a tough beginning to the season, the Aggies battled back and had a program-best outcome, beating the No. 1 team in the nation and defending national champion Tennessee Volunteers two out of three games in Knoxville (0-10, 9-3, 17-6 (8)).

## WOMEN'S GOLF

The No. 20 Aggies put on a show at home, winning the "Mo" Morial by a historic 38 shots. Cayetana Fernandez Garcia-Poggio's took the individual title, leading the Aggies to their first win of the season.

## WOMEN'S TENNIS

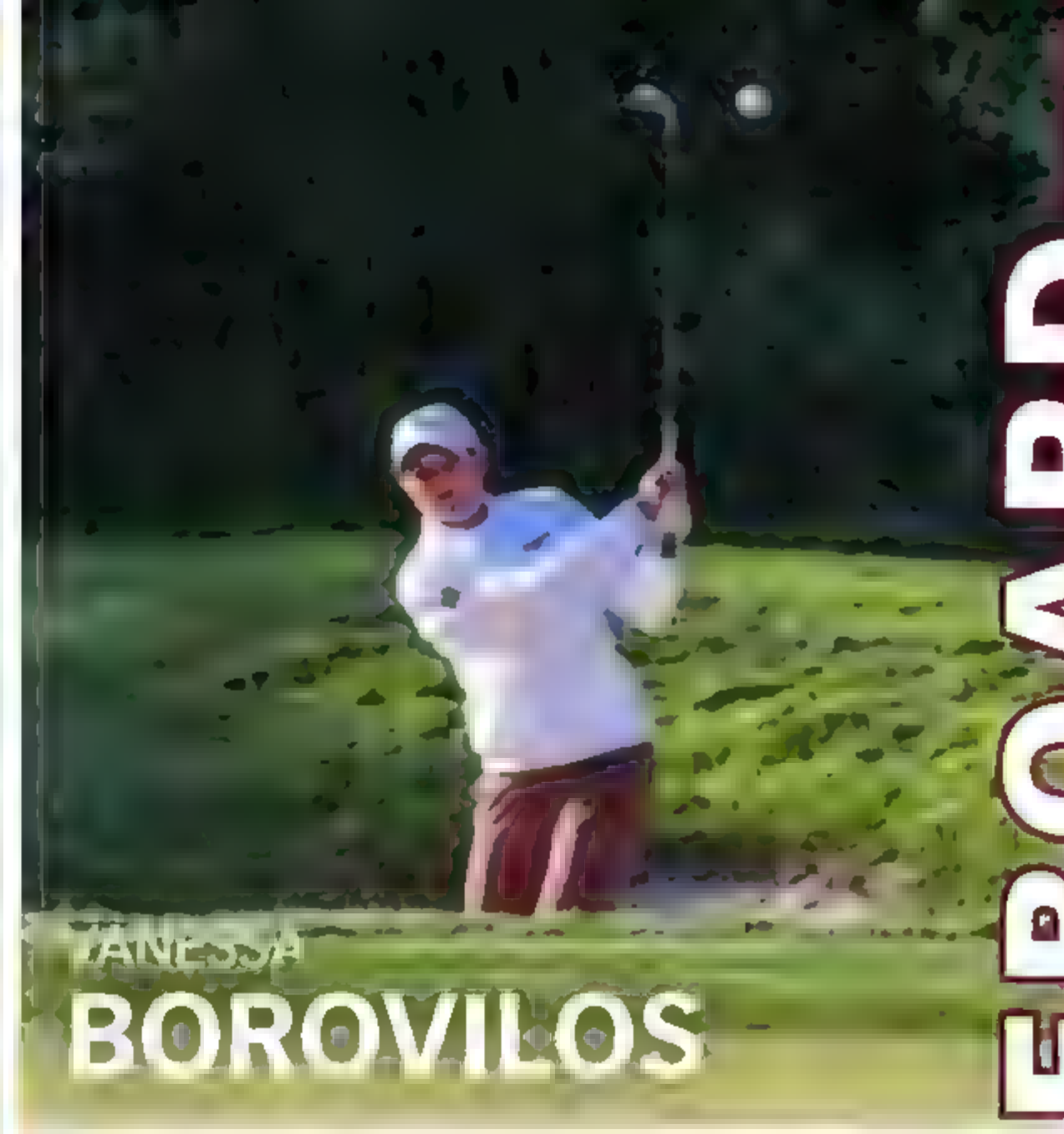
The tennis team captured their fourth consecutive SEC regular season championship against the No. 1 Georgia Bulldogs. They earned a No. 2 overall seed in the NCAA Tournament and have advanced to the Final Four as of press time.

## MEN'S TENNIS

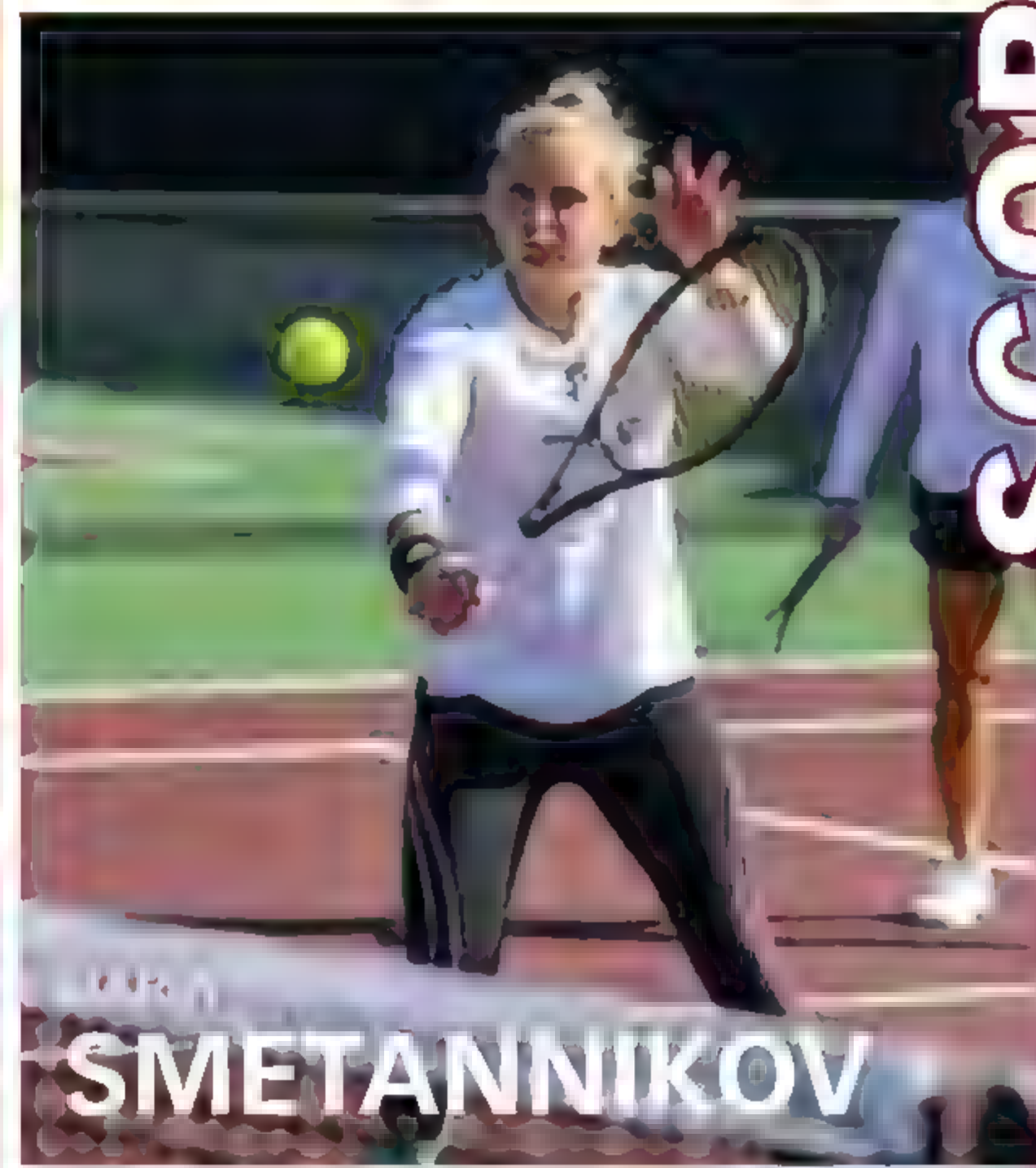
The men got to host the first two rounds of the NCAA Tournament. They beat Rice in the first round and Baylor in the second to advance to the Sweet 16.

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

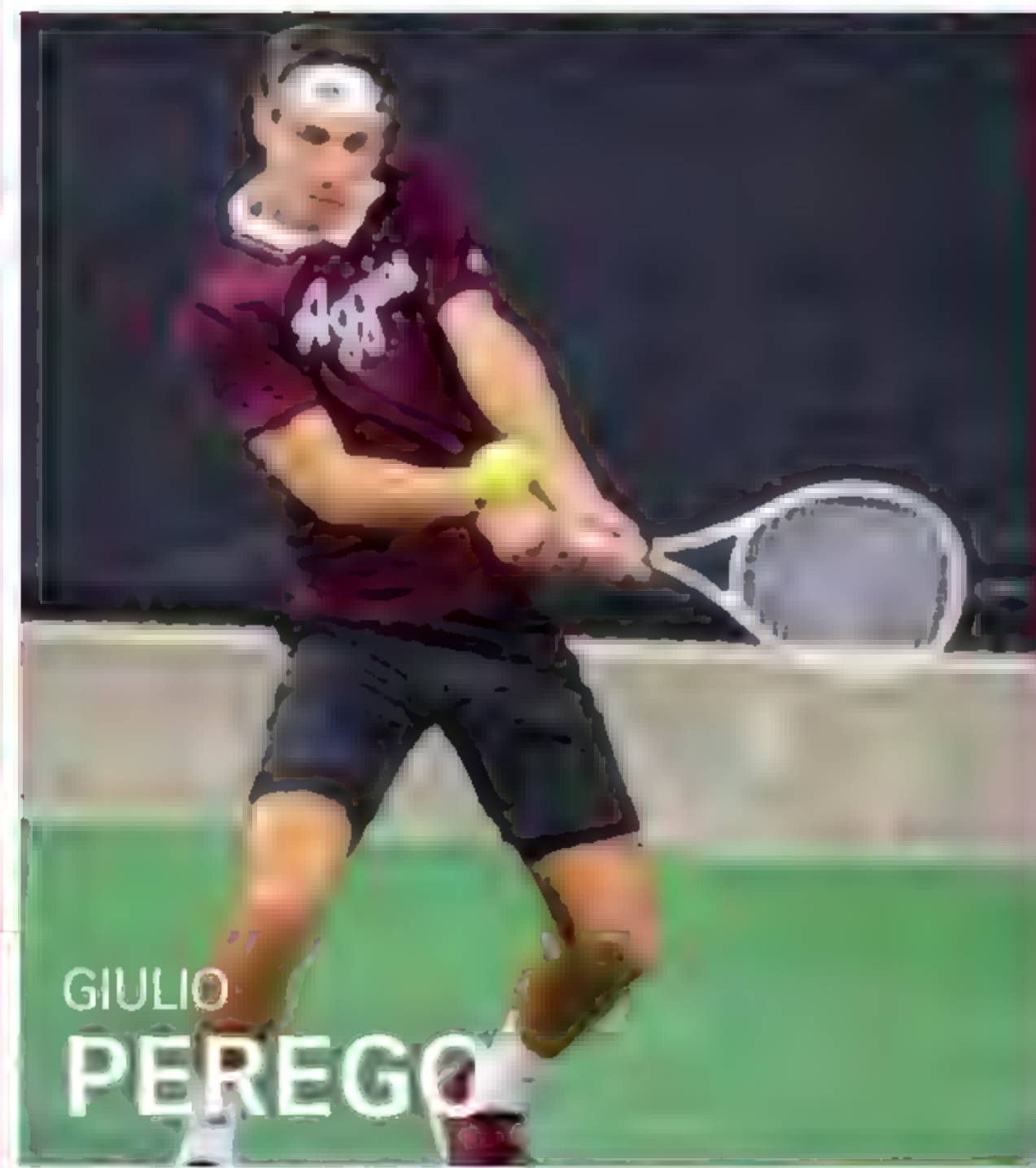
The team finished 10-19 and 3-13 in conference. Coach Taylor is hard at work in the portal to try and assemble next year's squad.



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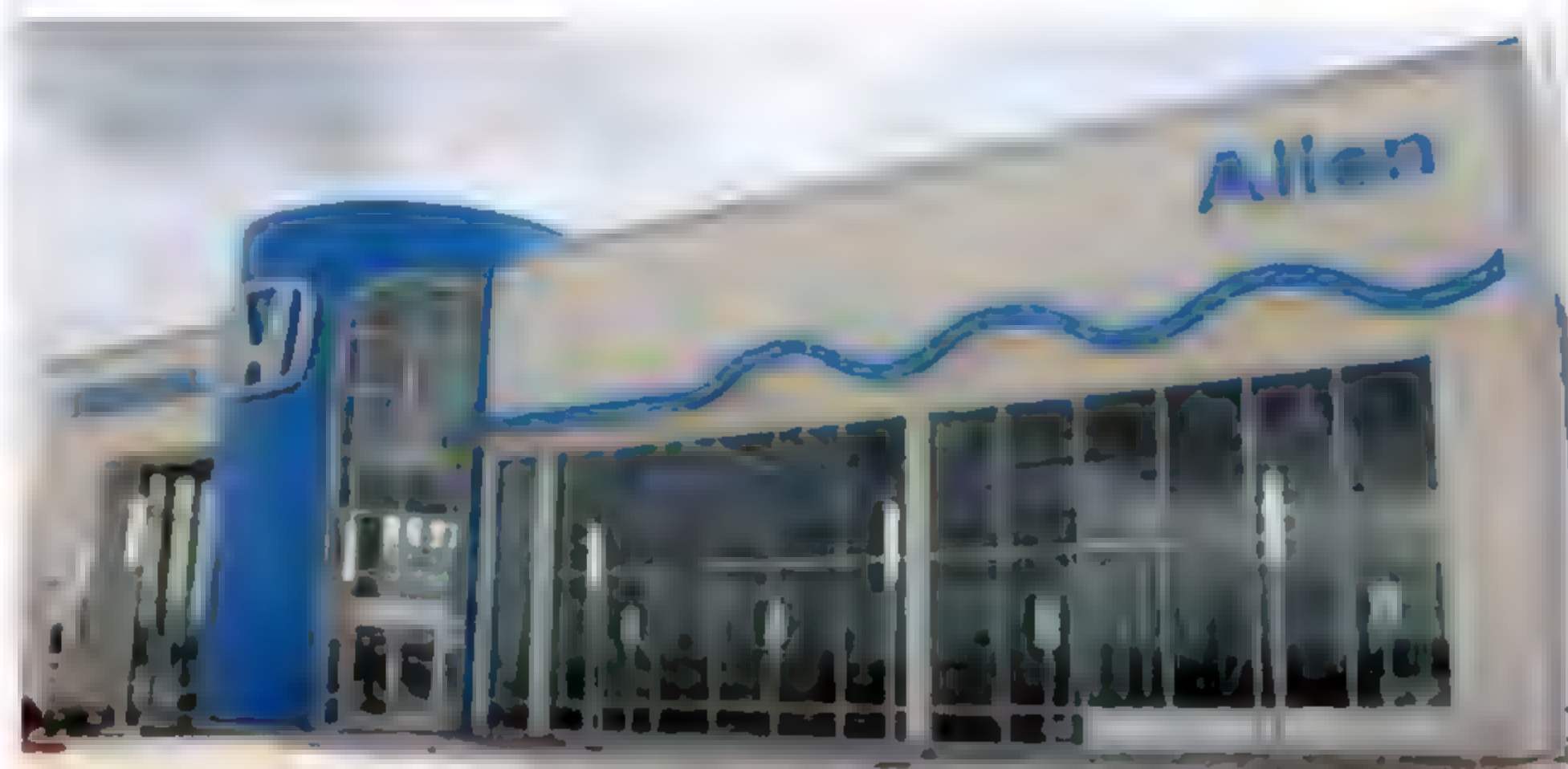
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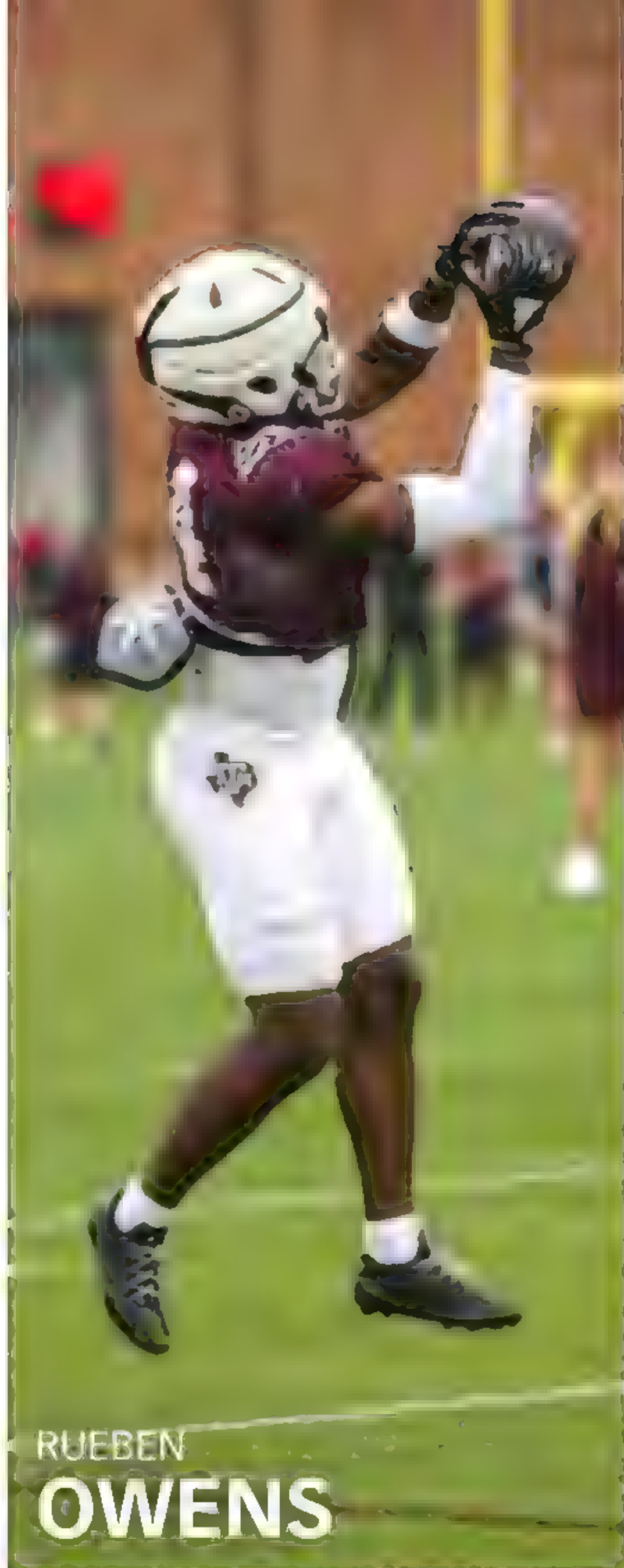
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The Aggies have had a successful spring camp and have stayed healthy. Marcel Reed is ready to go, as he takes the reins heading into his second year. Coach Elko and staff added some help via the portal in wide receivers Kevin Concepcion, Mario Craver and Jonah Wilson. Elko has taken a more active role on the defensive side of the ball, especially in the defensive backs room where he added Jordan Shaw and Julian Humphrey to the team.



MARCEL  
**REED**



MARIO  
**CRAVER**



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In President Welsh's opening statements at the introductory press conference, he told the 12th Man, "We are going to see some exciting things in Reed Arena next year." That statement will be music to the ears of fans who have craved a more uptempo version of Aggie basketball. Over the last six years, we have watched our student-athletes give their all on the floor, and we appreciate that. But, it was time for a change, and that is what Coach Bucky McMillan promises to bring to Aggieland - change.

Coach McMillan explained, "We play a style that wins. We just play very fast. Very fast. When I was at Samford we were a top ten scoring team in the country. That's never happened for a mid-major program. Our goal is to be one of the top-scoring teams in the country, and, at some point, we will certainly lead the country in scoring. We play full-court defense. We run, we pressure, we shoot a lot of threes, and we're going to attack the whole game."

Bucky believes his job isn't just to win games, but to provide entertainment, and he said the students are going to love it! He also understands that football is king in the South. He loves football himself, but as for basketball, "It's great to win, but it's also supposed to be entertainment, and you're going to be entertained the way that we play."

So how fast can he be successful? He was honest that due to the timing, it would be a challenge, as the portal has been open for a while and we currently have one player on our roster. But he is here for the long run and is focused on creating an elite basketball program, a first-class basketball program.

That begins with getting the best personnel that you can. Before arriving in College Station he had already secured two assistants that have coached here before in Mitch Cole and Kyle Keller. Cole was on Billy Kennedy's staff from 2011-2016 and has been an assistant on McMillan's staff at Samford since

GET READY FOR

# BUCKY BALL!

BY ROB HAVENS '88



2021. Keller was on Kennedy's staff from 2011-2016 as well before becoming the head coach at SFA for the last eight years. Just a few days after his arrival, Bucky added TJ Cleveland as an assistant coach. Cleveland is one of the top assistants in the game, arriving in College Station after two years at Wichita State. He has 13 years of experience in the SEC, having coached at Arkansas and Missouri.

Bucky's goal is to recruit the right players, develop them academically, athletically, and as people. When they're done here, he said, "We want them to be able to pursue their professional dreams."

McMillan explained that his program has been founded on hard work. He wants to get the best coaches and the best players and asked that the 12th Man help in that regard. "When we bring recruits to the games, and this place is filled up and filled out, and we're leading the country in scoring, and it's going crazy, people are going to say I want to be a part of that."

He plans to outwork the competition and said that is what A&M is all about "People don't differ in their desire to win, they differ in the price they're willing to pay to do it. And these student-athletes that we have are going to pay that price, and we're going to work hard and we're going to work harder than our competition."

Samford won more games in the past four years than any team in the Southern Conference. Before he arrived, the program had never finished higher than the bottom four in the league. The Bulldogs won three championships in four years under his direction.

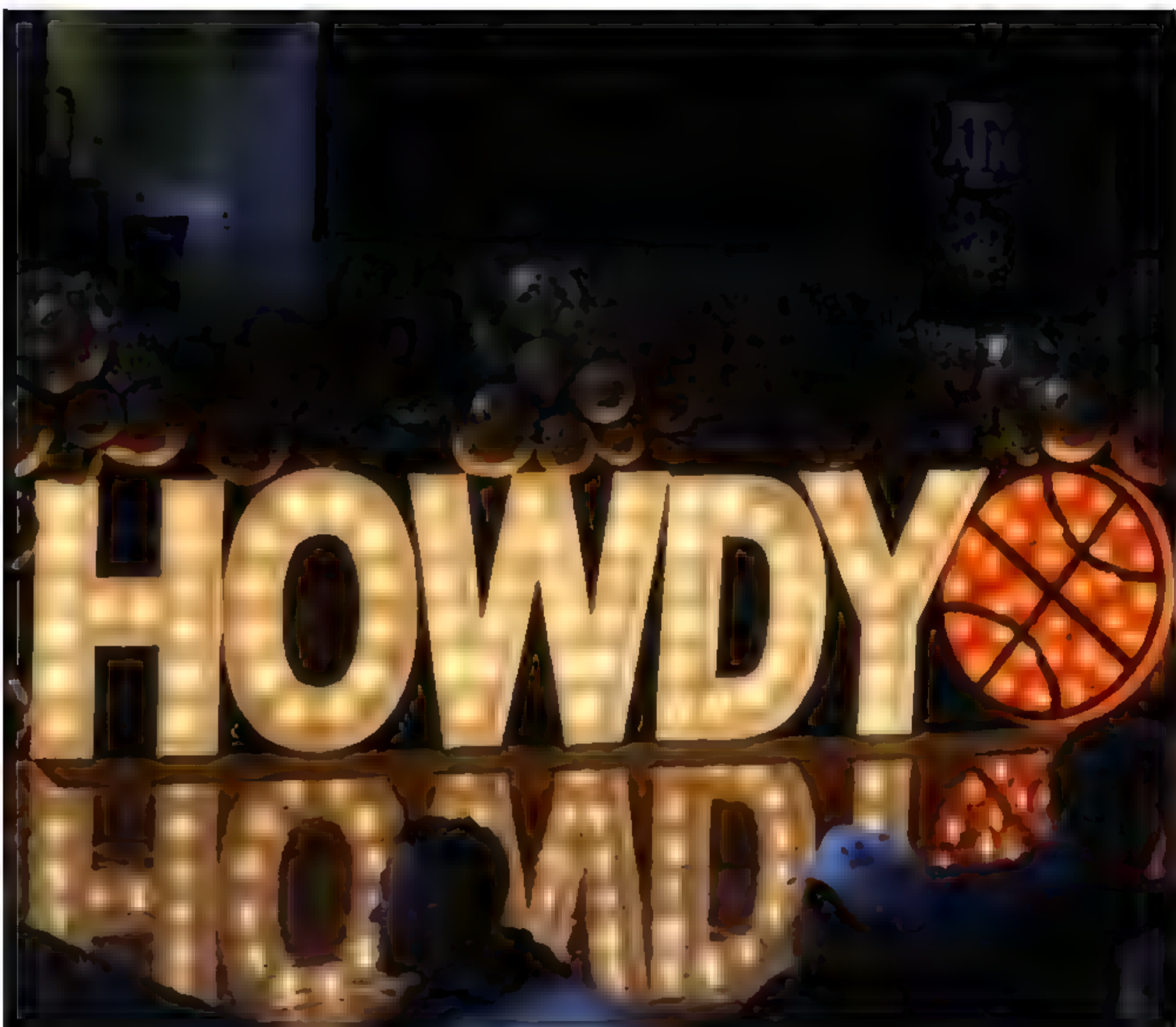
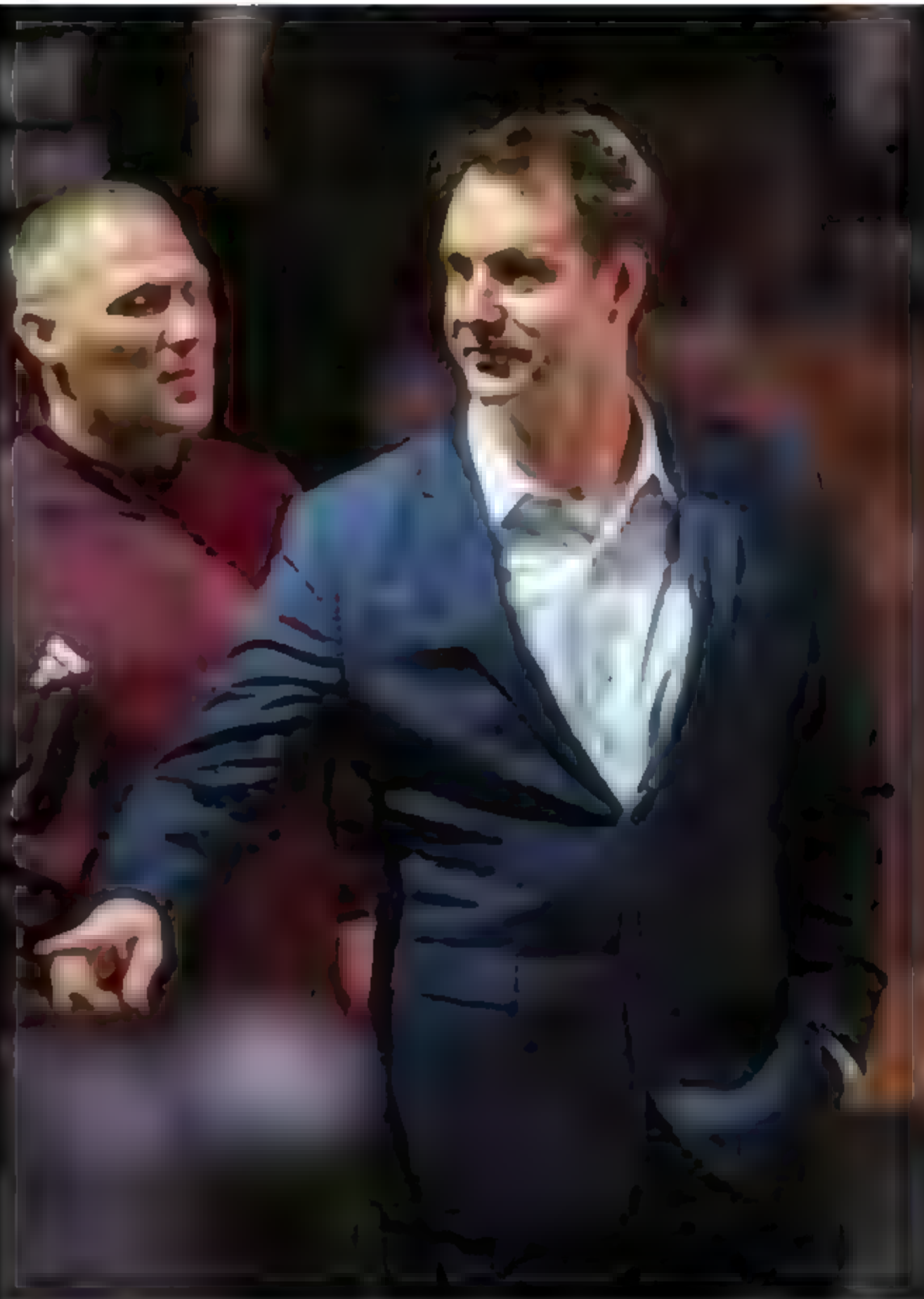
Bucky said the key to success is attracting unselfish players who are willing to outwork everybody. He promised that his players would be fearless, like the Aggie football team that he saw walk into Bryant-Denny Stadium and beat the Tide with Johnny Manziel.

As he wrapped up his initial press conference, Bucky talked about building relationships. "When I see y'all around town, my friends, they call me Bucky, and you all will be friends to me, and I certainly appreciate a passionate fan base. I love that. And some days you might like me less than others. But guess what, you're still going to be my friend. And I want to build relationships."

Coach McMillan certainly has his work cut out for him as he starts from scratch in the middle of the portal period, but so far he has made quite an impression. And the thought of fast breaks and full-court defense will be a welcomed change in Reed Arena! ■











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# TRANSFER PORTAL

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POSITION TIGHT END

HEIGHT 6'4"

WEIGHT 240

HIGH SCHOOL LAKEWOOD

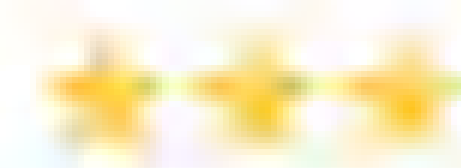
HOMETOWN ST PETERSBURG, FL

TRANSFER TEXAS

Signed out of HS to Alabama before transferring to Texas.

JONAH

**WILSON**



POSITION WIDE RECEIVER

HEIGHT 6'3"

WEIGHT 215

HIGH SCHOOL DEKANEY

HOMETOWN HOUSTON, TX

TRANSFER HOUSTON

Converted from QB to WR in HS. Also played Basketball.

KC

**CONCEPCION**



POSITION WIDE RECEIVER

HEIGHT 5'11"

WEIGHT 190

HIGH SCHOOL CHAMBERS

HOMETOWN CHARLOTTE, NC

TRANSFER NORTH CAROLINA ST

No. 17 in portal. Was a 3\* out of HS and 4\* in portal. Ranked as No. 5 WR in portal.



PHOTO COURTESY OF COLORADO ATHLETICS

DAYON  
**HAYES**



JORDAN

★★★★★

SHAW

POSITION DEFENSIVE BACK	
HEIGHT 6'1"	WEIGHT 180
HIGH SCHOOL MATTHIAS ACADEMY	
HOMETOWN LOS ANGELES, CA	
TRANSFER WASHINGTON	
Played in the All-American Bowl	

TYLER

★★★★★

ONYEDIM

POSITION DEFENSIVE LINE	
HEIGHT 6'4"	WEIGHT 295
HIGH SCHOOL FOSTER	
HOMETOWN RICHMOND, TX	
TRANSFER IOWA STATE	
Big pickup for A&M to help on the D Line.	

DAYON

★★★★★

HAYES

POSITION DEFENSIVE LINE	
HEIGHT 6'3"	WEIGHT 260
HIGH SCHOOL WESTINGHOUSE	
HOMETOWN PITTSBURGH, PA	
TRANSFER COLORADO	
Plays physical and fast with the ability to chase guys down from behind.	

NATE

★★★★★

BOERKIRCHER

POSITION TIGHT END	
HEIGHT 6'5"	WEIGHT 250
HIGH SCHOOL AURORA	
HOMETOWN AURORA, NE	
TRANSFER NEBRASKA	
Ranked No. 22 TE in the portal.	

TJ

★★★★★

SEARCY

POSITION DEFENSIVE LINE	
HEIGHT 6'5"	WEIGHT 255
HIGH SCHOOL UPSON-LEE	
HOMETOWN THOMASTON, GA	
TRANSFER FLORIDA	
No. 15 Edge Rusher in the portal.	

MARIO

★★★★★

CRAVER

POSITION WIDE RECEIVER	
HEIGHT 5'10"	WEIGHT 165
HIGH SCHOOL CLAY-CHALKVILLE	
HOMETOWN BIRMINGHAM, AL	
TRANSFER MISSISSIPPI STATE	
No. 16 WR in portal. Was one of the toughest WR the Aggies had to cover last season.	

JULIAN

★★★★★

HUMPHREY

POSITION DEFENSIVE BACK	
HEIGHT 6'0"	WEIGHT 195
HIGH SCHOOL CLEAR LAKE	
HOMETOWN GALVESTON, TX	
TRANSFER GEORGIA	
No. 6 CB in the portal. Also ran track in HS.	



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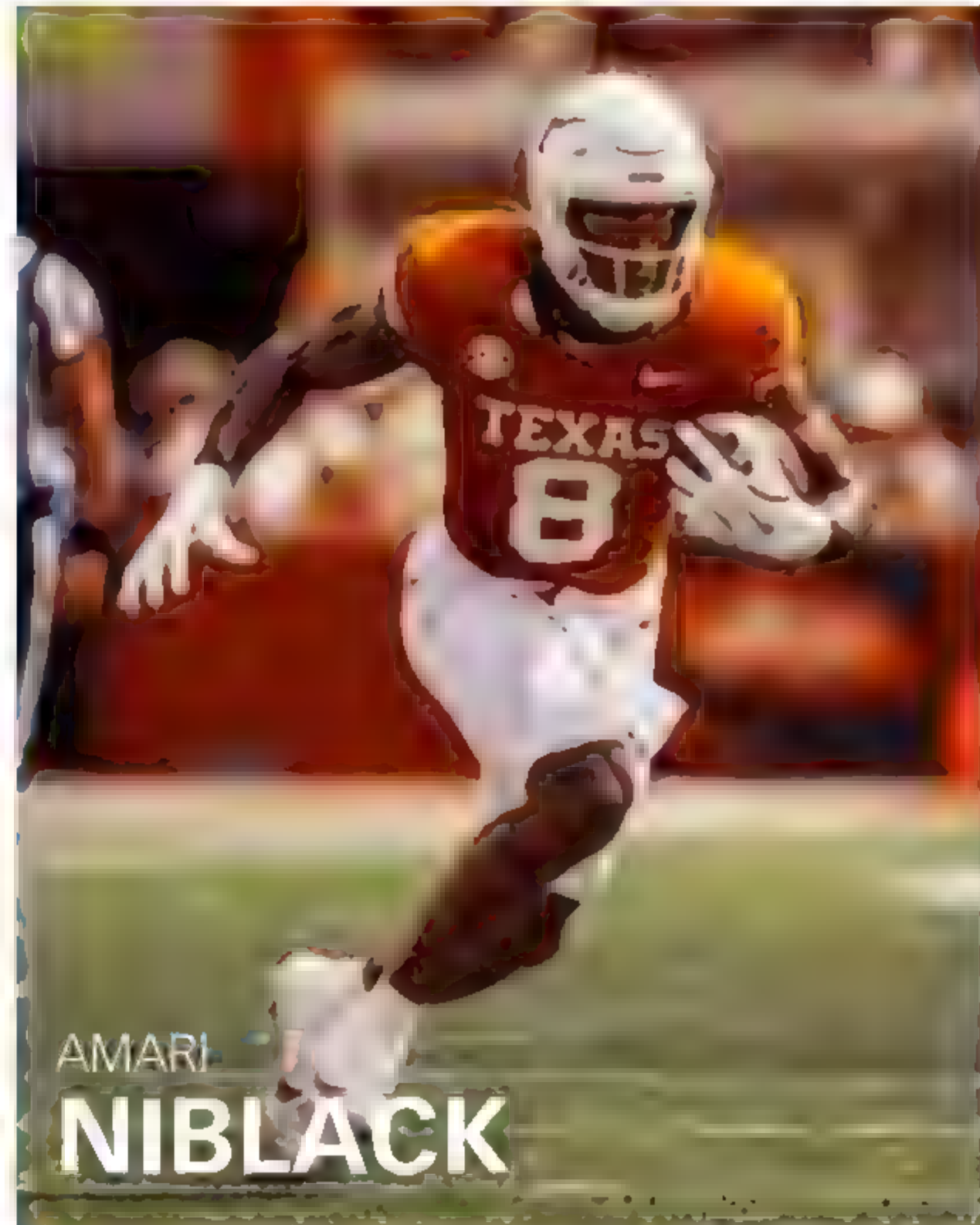


PHOTO COURTESY OF TEXAS ATHLETICS



PHOTO COURTESY OF GEORGIA ATHLETICS



SAM  
**M'PEMBA**

POSITION	DEFENSIVE LINE		
HEIGHT	6'3"	WEIGHT	250
HIGH SCHOOL	IMG ACADEMY		
HOMETOWN	OLIVETTE, MO		
TRANSFER	GEORGIA		
No. 43 edge rusher in the portal.			

MICAH  
**RILEY**

POSITION	TIGHT END	
HEIGHT	6'5"	WEIGHT 260
HIGH SCHOOL	BELLEVUE WEST	
HOMETOWN	OMAHA, NE	
TRANSFER	AUBURN	
No. 9 TE in the portal.		

JACOB  
**ZENO**

POSITION	QUARTERBACK		
HEIGHT	6'4"	WEIGHT	295
HIGH SCHOOL	JAY		
HOMETOWN	SAN ANTONIO, TX		
TRANSFER	UAB		
Played at Baylor before transferring to UAB in 2021.			

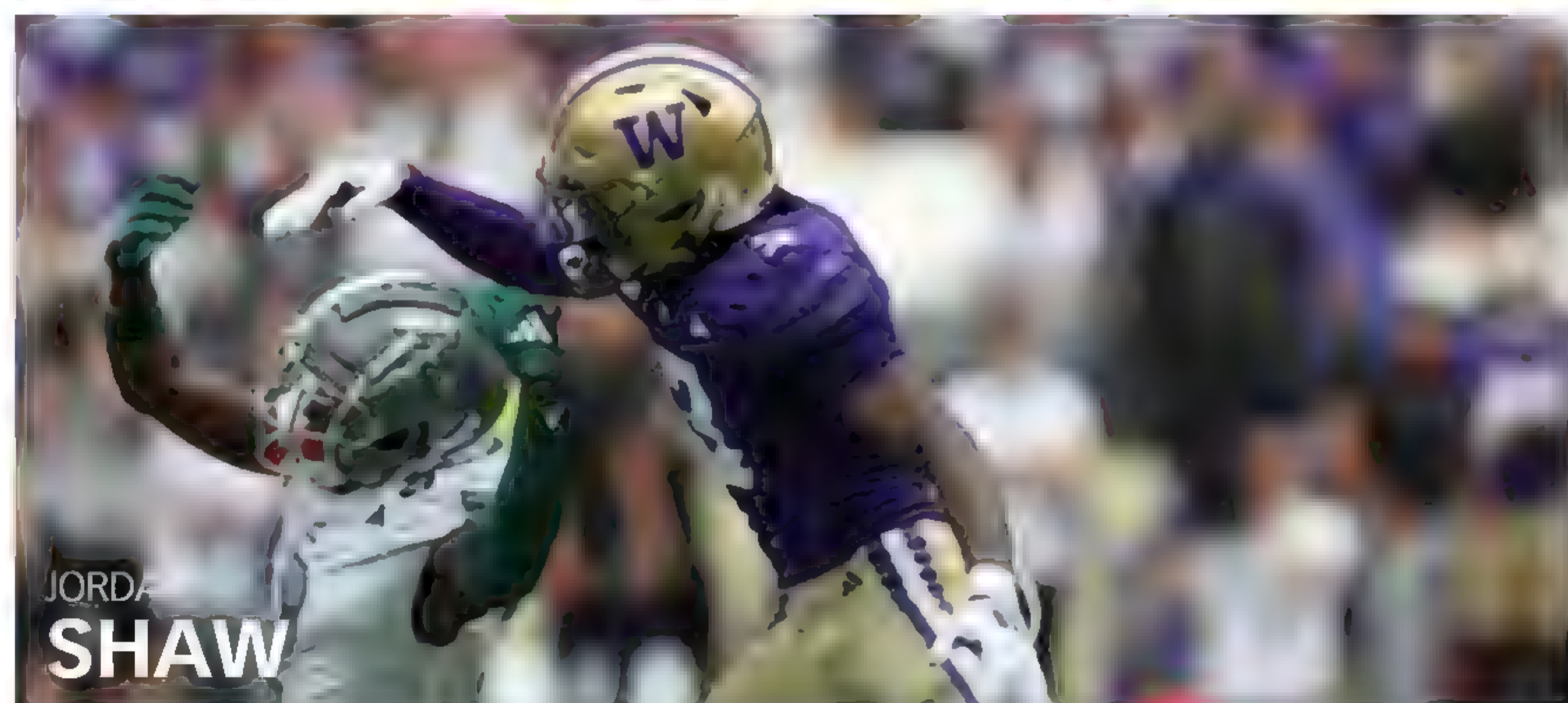
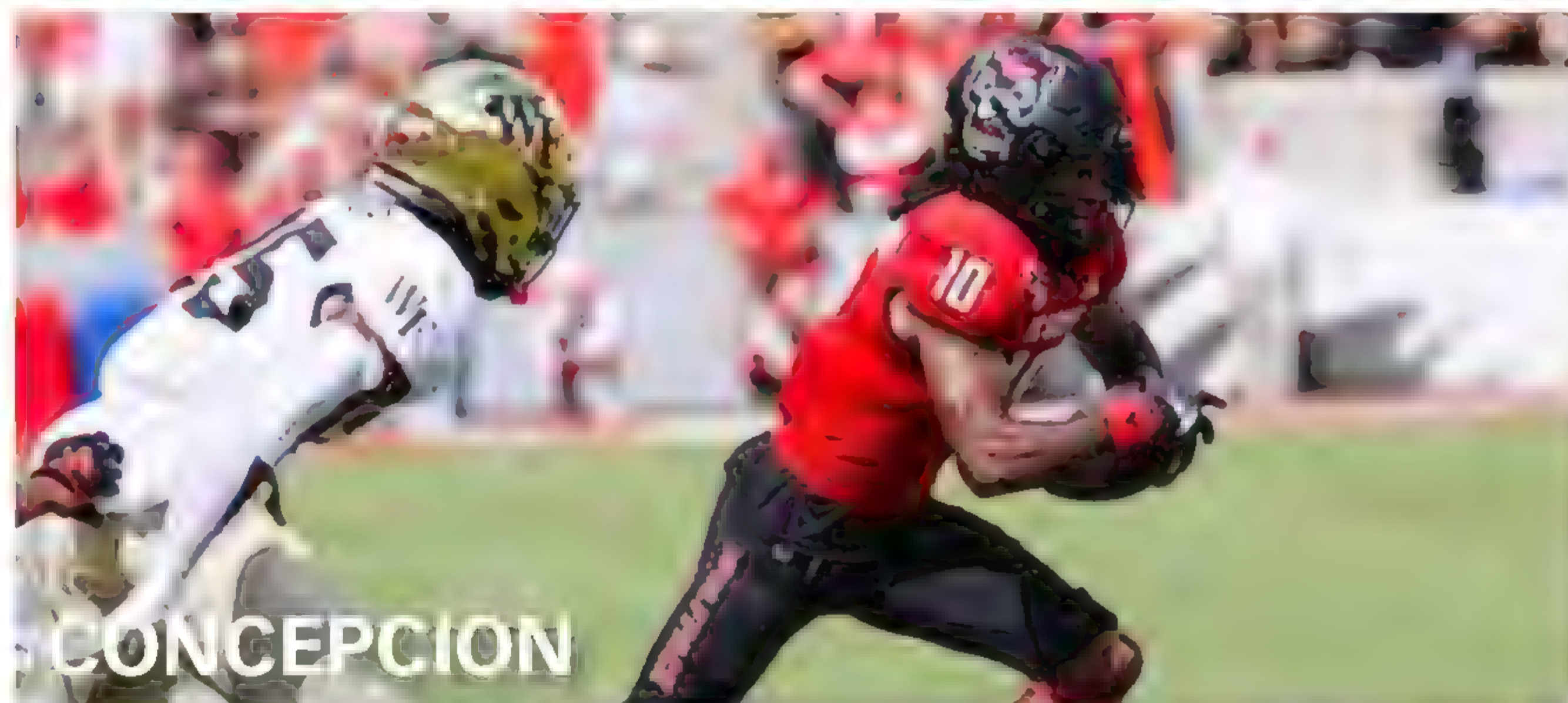
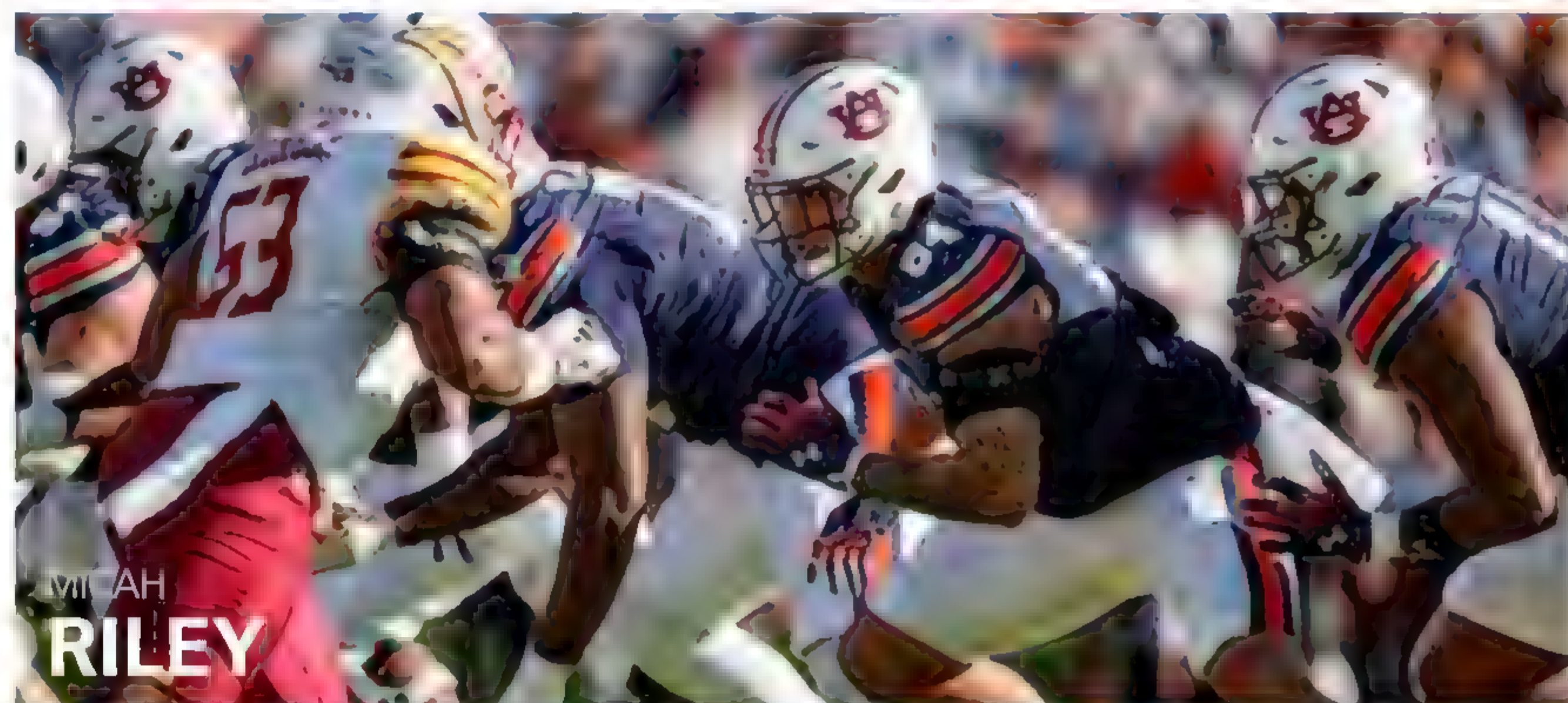
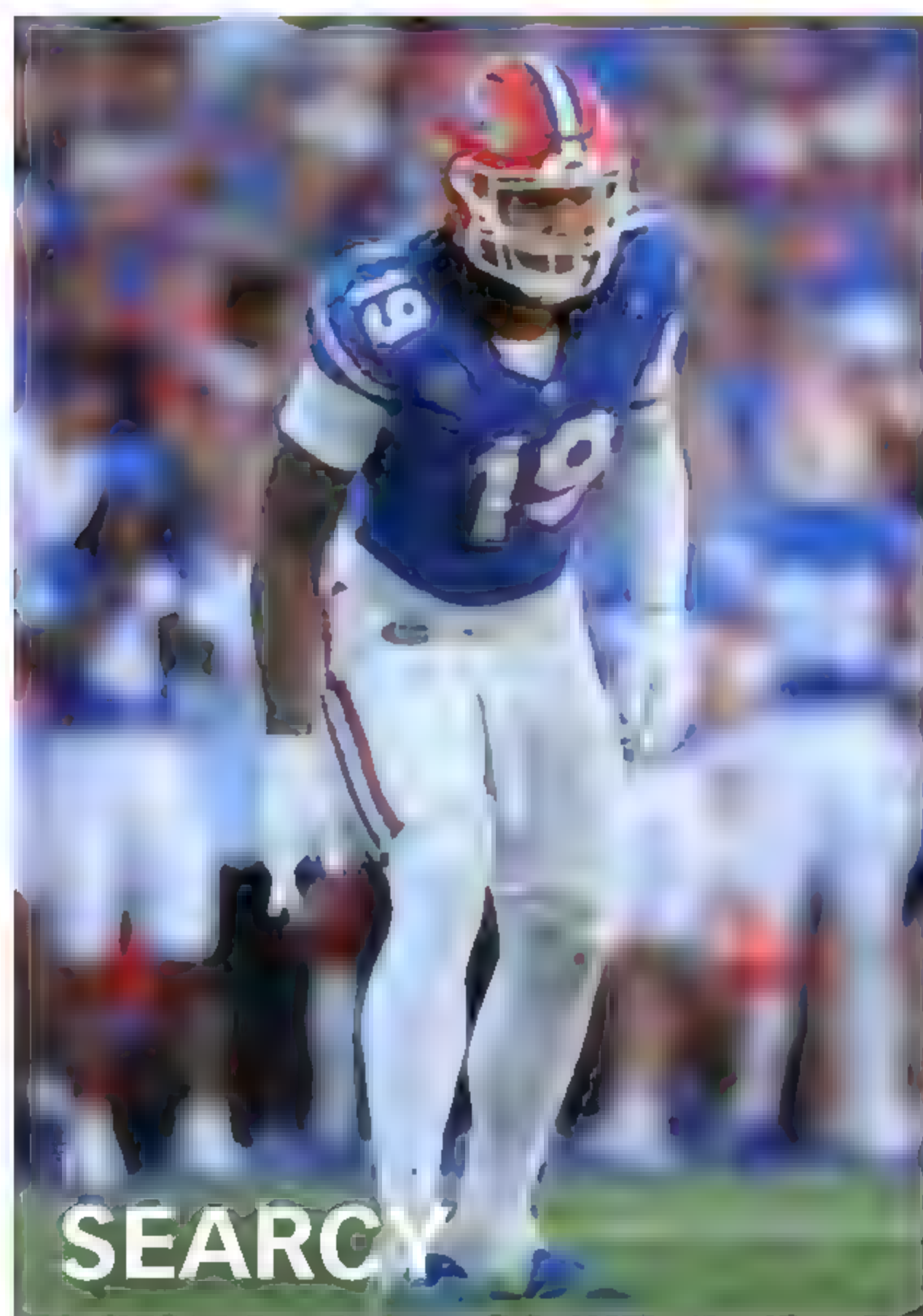


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SO LONG

# WADE TAYLOR

BY ROB HAVENS '88



ROB HAVENS '88





I've gotten to cover a lot of historic events in the last 12 years of Aggie Athletics. I was in the back of the endzone shooting the seventh overtime victory over LSU when Kellen Mond found Kendrick Rogers for the winning score. I was in the middle of the melee on Kyle Field in 2021 after Seth Small kicked the winning field goal to beat Alabama. And I was sitting on the baseline when the men's basketball team scored 12 points in 44 seconds to send the game to overtime and ultimately beat Northern Iowa in the second round of the 2016 NCAA tournament. But, one of my favorite memories will be watching the men's basketball team beat No. 1 Auburn and then hanging Wade Taylor's jersey from the rafters after the game.

Tears streamed down his face after seeing the jersey unveiled, and his team embraced him while Buzz spoke of his accolades over the microphone. It was truly a sight to see and a moment I'll never forget. It's the stuff movies are made of, as the underdog beats the No. 1 team for the first time in program history and then hangs the player's jersey from the ceiling.

In the new era of collegiate basketball, we may never

again see a player with his talent stay with a team for four years. In the NCAA tournament, he became the all-time points leader at Texas A&M, a record he may hold forever. The three-time First-team All-SEC player could have been a proud, arrogant, trash-talking punk, but he was humble and everything we want in a representative of Texas A&M.

I had the good fortune to shoot his final collegiate game in San Antonio on the floor of the Final Four. He had been invited to play in a college all-star game the day before the NCAA Tournament played its final games. Taylor earned West Team MVP, as he played his game like he always did. Not only did he score 14 points, but he was vintage Wade, running the offense and making great passes to get his squad back in the game.

I'm not sure what is in store for him moving forward, but with his heart and determination, there's nothing he can't do. Only two numbers are hanging in Reed, #1 for Acie Law and #4 for Wade Taylor. Only the best are recognized, and Taylor is definitely the best!







JOHNNY  
**MANZIEL**



MIKE  
**EVANS**



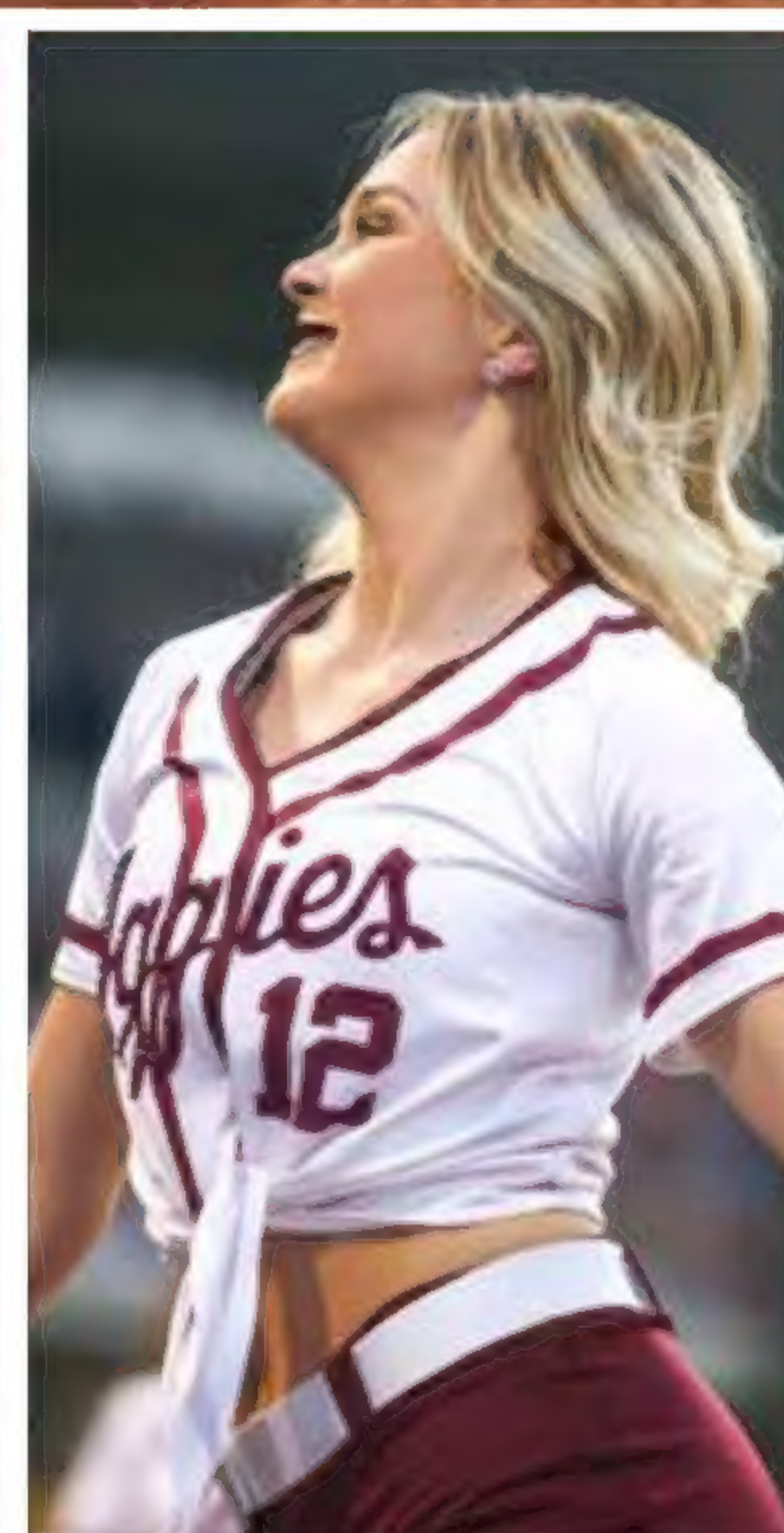




ZHURIC  
PHELPS



WADE  
TAYLOR IV





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